

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 SCS-03 H-02 JUSE-00 FBIE-00 DEAE-00

SNM-02 SY-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /033 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/MEX:HBLANE:MM  
APPROVED BY ARA/MEX:JTDREYFUSS  
L/SCS:H.R.GAITHER  
SCS:A.GISE

----- 123092

R 040056Z OCT 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
INFO AMCONSUL MAZATLAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 237085

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, CDES, MX

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN COMPLETING AN  
INVESTIGATION OF TRIPLE MURDER OF SHERIFF  
JENNINGS AND FAMILY, JANUARY 14, 1974.

REF: GAITHER/SMITH TELCON, OCTOBER 1.  
CONGRESSMAN LLOYDS MEED INTERESTED.

1. CONGRESSMAN MEEDS REQUESTS OUR COOPERATION IN  
FACILITATING A SECOND AND MORE COMPLETE INVESTIGATION BY  
THE SNOHOMISH COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT OF THE MURDER  
ON JANUARY 14, 1974 OF THE THEN SNOHOMISH COUNTY SHERIFF  
DONALD F. JENNINGS; HIS WIFE, AND HIS MOTHER IN SINALOA  
BY A PERSON OR PERSONS AS YET UNKNOWN.

2. THE SNOHOMISH COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT HAS  
POINTED OUT SERIOUS DISCREPANCIES IN THE MEXICAN  
AUTHORITIES HANDLING OF THE INVESTIGATION AND REQUESTS  
GOM APPROVAL TO INSURE THE DEPUTIES FREEDOM TO CONDUCT  
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POLYGRAPH INTERVIEWS OF KNOWLEDGABLE PARTIES AND TO

GUARANTEE THE DEPUTIES' SAFETY AND FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT.  
THE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT PROPOSES TO SEND A TEAM

- - - - "  
CONSISTING OF ONE INVESTIGATOR, ONE POLYGRAPH OPERATOR,  
AND ONE INTERPRETER TO MEXICO TO INTERVIEW LICENCIADO  
RAMON HERRERA ESPONDA (A FEDERAL POLICE OFFICER DIRECTLY  
INVOLVED IN INVESTIGATING THE CASE) AND TWO OFFICERS,  
REPORTEDLY IN HIS COMMAND AT THE TIME OF MURDER,  
VICENTE MORALES MUNOZ AND OSCAR GONZALEZ GONZALEZ.  
ACCORDING TO THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT MUNOZ AND GONZALEZ  
WERE SUBSEQUENTLY CONVICTED OF PARTICIPATING IN A  
VINDICTIVE DRUG TRAFFICKING GANG MURDER AND ARE PRESENTLY  
IMPRISONED IN CULIACAN. THIS MURDER OCCURRED EITHER  
THE SAME DAY OR THE DAY BEFORE THE JENNINGS' MURDERS ABOUT  
30 MILES AWAY FROM THE SCENE OF THAT CRIME.

3. COPIES OF CONGRESSMAN MEED'S LETTER AND CORRESPON-  
DENCE FROM THE SNOHOMISH COUNTRY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ARE  
BEING SENT. THE DEPARTMENT FEELS THAT THE SHERIFF'S  
DEPARTMENT HAS RAISED VERY SERIOUS QUESTIONS AND  
SUGGESTS THAT THE EMBASSY REVIEW THE MATTER WITH THE  
GOM. WHILE THE CASE APPEARS TO BE ONE OF PRIMARY  
JURISDICTION IN THE STATE OF SINALOA, SHERIFF'S REPORT  
INDICATES THAT FEDERAL POLICE WERE INVOLVED IN THE  
INITIAL INVESTIGATION. FEDERAL AUTHORITIES MAY HAVE  
BASIS FOR JURISDICTION. IF GOM ASSISTANCE IN THIS CASE  
APPEARS TO EMBASSY TO BE POTENTIALLY COUNTERPRODUCTIVE  
IN LIGHT OVERALL INTERESTS IN THIS FIELD, DEPARTMENT  
WOULD WISH DETAILED GUIDANCE AS TO HOW WE SHOULD  
RESPOND FULLY TO CONGRESSMAN MEEDS.

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